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*To the Reverend the Clergy of the Diœceſe of* York.

REVEREND BRETHREN,

YOU will herewith Receive His Majeſties Brief, for the Relief of many Thouſands of our Poor Brethren that are in Extreme Want and Miſery: Whoſe Sufferings being wholly occaſion'd by their Conſcientious Adherence to the Proteſtant Religion, we thought it would become us to ſend with it our earneſt Deſire, that you would, both in publick and private, Stir up the People under your Charge, to a Liberal Contribution.

We cannot but tell you, It is expected from us by all our Proteſtant Brethren Abroad; who indeed have Set us a noble Example, in the large Contributions they have already made, in their reſpective Churches and States. And it will appear very ſtrange, if the Church of *England*, that hath always been Reputed the *Pillar* of the Proteſtant Cauſe, ſhould not Signalize her Zeal for it, on ſo preſſing an Occaſion.

We Deſire you therefore (as well for the Honour of our Church, as out of a Chriſtian Concern for our Suffering Brethren) to endeavour, both by your Example and Exhortations, that this Gathering be a publick Teſtimony of our Zeal for the true Religion, and bear ſome

Proportion to the Number and Neceſſities of thoſe who are now Proſecuted for it. To this End, It will be convenient, That you repreſent to your ſeveral Congregations, the *Greatneſs* of this Calamity in all its Circumſtances: Of which they will have a more lively Senſe and Fellow-feeling, if you put them in mind of their *own* Terrors and Apprehenſions of Miſery, while we were in Danger of being brought under the Scourge of that Cruel Religion. And this will naturally lead you to Suggeſt to them, their Obligations to Comfort thoſe poor Creatures, who now *Suffer* what we formerly *Fear'd* with ſo much Uneaſineſs. Our Liberality on this Sad Occaſion, will be the propereſt Expreſſion of our Thankfulneſs for that Deliverance; as well as the moſt effectual Means of Prevailing with God to Continue to us the quiet Enjoyment of our Religion.

It is at this time, an Opinion induſtriouſly Propagated in ſome of the Popiſh Countries, that we are here Perſecuting their Brethren with the utmoſt Severity; and the *Prieſts* are exceeding diligent in raiſing Contributions for their Relief. How groundleſs an Aſperſion this is on His Majeſties gracious Government, we all know and ſee: But this Uſe however we ought to make of it, That if they are thus ready to Support *their* Brethren, when there is ſo little Occaſion for it; much more Zealous ſhould we be in Relieving *Ours*, who are actually Groning under a moſt heavy Perſecution; for which their very Enemies pretend no other Reaſon

but

but their Stedfaſtneſs in the Proteſtant Religion.

Theſe things being Conſider'd, and what elſe will naturally occur to you; we doubt not, you will do your utmoſt to Stir up the Charity of your People, not only by your Godly Exhortations, but alſo by giving Liberally your ſelves, according to your reſpective Abilities.

*We heartily Recommend you, and your Pious Labours, to the Bleſſing of Almighty God, and Remain*

*March* 14th
1699.

Your Loving Brother,

J. Ebor.

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